

Forensic Science | Unit 7 Case Study – Boston Marathon Bombing

Using the information provided for the case and information gathered from the internet, fill in the required information in the space provided below.

Introduction to the case: On April 15, 2013, two homemade bombs detonated 12 seconds and 210 yards (190 m) apart at 2:49 p.m., near the finish line of the annual Boston Marathon, killing three people and injuring several hundred others, including 16 who lost limbs.

For this case study you will be studying the case of the Boston Marathon Bombing of 2013. Start by reading the information in the following links. Continue gathering information about the case by completing the case study.

- [Wikipedia site](#)
- [Fast facts](#)
- [Evidence Collection](#) (**Caution**, some images are graphic.)

1. Case Name: (1 point)
Bombing of the Boston marathon
2. Dates crime occurred: (1 point)
April 15, 2013
3. Persons of interest named in the investigation and relationship to victim(s): (1 point)
Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, domestic terrorists
4. Summary of crime sequence: (Detailed summary of what actually happened.) (3 points)
on April 15, 2013, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev planted pressure cooker bombs near the finish line of the Boston marathon. They detonated at 2:49 P.M. 14 seconds apart from each other. The bombs killed 3 people and injured 264 others.

Charges filed against the suspect(s): (2 points)

Dzhokhar: Use of a weapon of mass destruction resulting in death) (2 counts), Use of a weapon of mass destruction (4 counts), Conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction resulting in death, Bombing a place of public use resulting in death (2 counts), Conspiracy to bomb a place of public use resulting in death, Maliciously destroying property resulting in death (2 counts), Conspiracy to maliciously destroy property resulting in death, Carjacking resulting in serious bodily injury, Use of a firearm during a crime of violence resulting in death (9 counts), Use of a firearm during a crime of violence (6 counts), Interfering with commerce by threats or violence.

Tamerlan: died before trial

- 5.
6. Outcome of the case and current status: (2 points)
(This includes any court proceedings and decisions. Also, include sentencing and dates.)
Dzhokhar sentenced to death June 24, 2015. On July 31, 2020, the First Circuit overturned the death sentence. The Supreme Court ruled on March 4, 2022 that the First Circuit improperly vacated the death sentence that Tsarnaev had been given. They reinstated the death penalty.
7. In Lesson 7.1 you learned about arson and explosive evidence. What type of evidence was collected by investigators at the point of the explosions? (4 points)
Unexploded bomb, remains of a pressure cooker bomb
8. Based on this evidence, would you classify the explosive as a high or low explosive? Support your answer with an explanation. (4 points)
High explosives because the explosions were very powerful and loud
9. In lesson 7.2 you learned about bullet analysis. In the hours and days after the bombing, there were several shootouts between the suspected bombers and law enforcement. Describe how forensic scientists used the skills described in lesson 7.2 to analyze firearm related evidence in this case. (4 points)
There was a shootout between police and Tamerlan. The police all had .40 and .45 caliber pistols. This led investigators to trace 9mm bullets and casings to Tamerlan.
10. Case significance: (How is this case important to our understanding of Forensic Science? For example, was a new method or technology used in this case?) (5 points)
It is important because it has explosion and ballistic evidence that was used.
11. List at least 3 things you found interesting about this case: (3 points)
It is the only one so far that I remember happening
They were going to bomb Times Square next
Dzhokhar bought milk at the store right after the bombing
12. Sources: (Record links to your sources.) (2 points)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamerlan_Tsarnaev
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dzhokhar_Tsarnaev
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Marathon_bombing
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/boston-marathon-bombings-trial-evidence/>